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Date of Signature and Deposit: July 23, 2001

Nicholas J. Seay

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED

Applicants: Richard L. Atkinson
Nikhil V. Dhurandhar

Date: July 23, 2001

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Serial No.: 09/619,117

Examiner: A. Salimi

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Filed: 07/19/2000

Art Unit: 1648

Title: VIRAL OBESITY METHODS
AND COMPOSITIONS

Our Ref: 710395.90010

RESPONSE

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 23, 2001 in the file of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claim 1, amend Claim 2 and add the following new Claims 4-8 as follows:

2. (Amended) A method of determining whether an obese person is suffering from viral obesity caused by adenovirus type 36p, the method comprising the steps of isolating from the person a sample selected from the group consisting of a body fluid, feces, a sample of tissue and a sample of an organ from the person and; assaying the sample by an immunoanalytical or nucleic acid probe hybridization method to test for the presence of whether the person has been or is infected with adenovirus type 36p, which causes obesity and reduces cholesterol level in humans.